

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2618
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024

STRAY CATTLE

2618 **SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:**
SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken to address the growing issue of stray cattle across the country, particularly in urban and rural areas;
- (b) whether there is adequate funding for the same, if so, State-wise details thereof and implementation of schemes for cow protection and welfare;
- (c) whether Government has evaluated the effectiveness of gaushalas and other cow protection initiatives in managing stray cattle; and
- (d) the reasons for failure in implementation of a comprehensive national policy for cow protection and stray cattle management?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

- (a) As per Article 243(W) and 246, the Local Body is mandated to control the stray animals population. However, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) had issued advisory dated 12.07.2018 regarding the rescue and rehabilitation of stray animals and advisory dated 27.02.2020 to initiate action against the animal owners who leave their cattle on the roads inflicting cruelty to animals. Many State Governments are taking various steps including giving financial assistance to the gaushalas for taking care of stray cattle. Further, the Central Government is implementing Rashtriya Gokul Mission under which subsidies are provided for sex sorted semen and production of sex sorted semen. By using sex sorted semen, the number of male cattle can be reduced, thereby reducing the problem of stray male cattle.
- (b) Since the subject matter pertains to the State. As per the Article 48 of the Constitution of India, State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India for conservation of Indigenous Cattle breeds along with other activities of cattle development. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is providing fund to the recognized animal welfare organizations/ Gaushalas who provide shelter to the stray/injured/sick animals. The AWBI is also providing financial assistance for establishment of Shelter House, procurement of Ambulance and also assisting the Animal Welfare Organizations those are working for rescue and rehabilitation during Natural Calamities. The details of fund provided by the Animal Welfare Board of India under these Schemes in last five years is as below:

	Regular Grant	Shelter Grant	Ambulance Grant	Natural Grant
Particulars	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
2019-20	1,55,64,702	2,50,00,000	26,39,500	-
2020-21	1,30,00,000	1,50,00,000	49,41,800	2,00,000
2021-22	1,99,00,000	1,50,00,000	48,56,650	-
2022-23	4,45,00,000	70,03,535	48,65,594	50,000
2023-24	4,08,20,675	42,22,048	-	-

(c) and (d) With respect to the comprehensive national policy for cow protection and stray cattle management, as per Article 48, the Constitution of India, State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. Being the state subject, this matter is looked after, and the required intervention are implemented by the states.
